

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1 and 3-26. Upon entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-26 are pending, with claims 1 and 2 being independent. Applicants have replaced the Abstract to address the Examiner's concerns and believe the Abstract is now in proper form for allowance.

Obviousness Rejection

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,775,45, to Maroney *et al.* ("Maroney") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,707,076 to Skutnik *et al.* ("Skutnik") Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Maroney discloses a photonic crystal fiber surrounded by a jacket. The photonic crystal fiber in Maroney includes a core or multiples cores and a cladding. See Fig. 1, 2, 3 and description in column 1, line 22 -24, column 4, line 16-19 and column 4, line 31-34, respectively. As disclosed in Fig. 3 and the accompanying description in col. 4, lines 30-34, the jacket 6 encases the cladding 4.

Skutnik discloses UV curable coating compositions with a low refractive index (see representative examples in Table II, columns 7, 8 and columns 9, 10) used as a cladding for a fiber optic core to achieve certain desired optical properties such as containing energy within the core. See column 6, lines 2-4, and column 12, lines 1 to 32. Also see claims, column 12. Skutnik does not disclose or suggest a composition with low refractive index that is used as a protective coating surrounding the optical fiber (which includes both a core and a cladding layer). Therefore, the combination of Maroney and Skutnik does not disclose or suggest the present invention, which is a coated photonic crystal fiber comprising a photonic crystal fiber (including a core and cladding) and a protective coating surrounding said photonic crystal fiber, wherein said protective coating has a refractive index below 1.45.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the cited art at the time the invention was made.

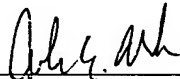
In re Appln. of Bishop et al.
Application No. 10/622,192

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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